

WI-398  
John V. Humphreys Farm  
Hebron vicinity  
Private

c. 1840

The two-story, three-bay frame dwelling that stands in the midst of mature cedars on the John V. Humphreys farm dates to the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Nine-over-six sash windows, boxed cornices, flush gable ends, and late Federal style woodwork clearly places construction of this center hall/single-pile dwelling around 1840. The parlor, the most elaborate room, is fitted with flush board wainscoting within a grid of beaded edge boards. Also original to the house is the two-panel Greek Revival parlor door and the late Federal style staircase. Attached to the back of the house is a single-story kitchen, which stood formerly west of the main block and attached by a colonnade.

The two-story frame dwelling was erected during the ownership of John V. Humphreys (1805-1849). His wife and six of their seven children, who are named in the distribution of his estate, were listed in the 1850 United States census with another family member, Josiah Humphreys (spelled Humphriss in the census), a 33-year old farmer. During the third quarter of the nineteenth century the farm was owned by Alpheus Humphreys, who acquired sixty acres along the road between Jesse Davis houses and Upper Ferry in 1875. The Rockawalkin vicinity farm has been passed down through the years and remains in Humphreys family hands.

**MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION**

**RESOURCE NAME:** John V. Humphreys Farm

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST INVENTORY NUMBER:** WI-398

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA**

1. **Historic Period Theme(s):** Architecture
2. **Geographic Orientation:** Eastern Shore
3. **Chronological/Development Period(s):** Agricultural-Industrial Transition  
1815-1870
4. **Resource Type(s):** Dwelling

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-398

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic John V. Humphreys Farm

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 26849 Crooked Oak Lane \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Hebron \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Edward Humphreys

street & number 26445 Nanticoke Road telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21801

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 36, P. 196  
liber 1511

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 196

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-398

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved

date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The John V. Humphreys farm is located at 26849 Crooked Oak Lane southeast of Hebron, Wicomico County, Maryland. The farm, comprising 124 acres, is a rectangular parcel bounded by Crooked Oak Lane on the north, Rockawalkin Creek on the east, Firetower Road on the west, and a farm lane to the south. The two-story, three-bay frame farmhouse, surrounded by mature trees, is centered on the acreage at the end of a shell lane. The house faces north with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Estimated to date around 1840, the two-story, center hall/single-pile frame house is supported by a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched gable roof, finished with flush gable ends, is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a single-story kitchen that formerly stood west of the main block and connected to the house by a colonnade.

The north (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center door and flanking nine-over-one sash windows. The front door is a replacement. The second floor is lighted by three six-over-six sash windows. Finishing the base of the roof is a boxed cornice.

The east gable end is defined by nine-over-six sash windows on the first floor and six-over-six sash windows on the second. The windows flank an interior end brick stack.

An exterior brick chimney, dating around 1940, rises on the west gable end, which is pierced by six-over-six sash windows.

The rear wall of the main block is partially covered by the single-story kitchen wing. The kitchen is extended on its east side by a shed roofed addition, which contains a rear entrance. A brick stove chimney rises through the gable end.

The interior has been modified over the years, but a significant amount of second quarter of the nineteenth century woodwork remains intact. The center hall retains its original staircase, which has square cross-sectioned newel posts and narrow stick balusters that support a circular profile handrail.

East of the hall is a parlor, which is entered through a two-panel Greek Revival door. Approximately square, the parlor is trimmed with flush board wainscoting framed by a grid of beaded edge boards capped by a molded chair rail. The firebox is framed by a molded surround dating from the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

On the west side of the hall is the living room, which is entered through a board-and-batten door. The firebox in this room is topped by a bracketed mantel shelf salvaged from another house. The carved Federal style frieze blocks were reused at the base of the hearth adjacent to the baseboard. Sheet paneling covers the walls.

The second floor retains wide pine flooring and some original woodwork. An enclosed winder stair rises to the attic. The west bedroom door is hung on wrought-iron strap hinges.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-398

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

## Specific dates

## Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The two-story, three-bay frame dwelling that stands in the midst of mature cedars on the John V. Humphreys farm dates to the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Nine-over-six sash windows, boxed cornices, flush gable ends, and late Federal style woodwork clearly places construction of this center hall/single-pile dwelling around 1840. The parlor, the most elaborate room, is fitted with flush board wainscoting within a grid of beaded edge boards. Also original to the house is the two-panel Greek Revival parlor door and the late Federal style staircase. Attached to the back of the house is a single-story kitchen, which stood formerly west of the main block and attached by a colonnade.

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<sup>1</sup> Somerset County Administration Account, SWJ 2/245

<sup>2</sup> Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Somerset County Population Schedule as transcribed and published by Ruth T. Dryden.

<sup>3</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, SPT 2/26, 29 April 1875.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-398

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of nominated property** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quadrangle name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quadrangle scale** \_\_\_\_\_

**UTM References** do NOT complete UTM references

**A**

Zone Easting Northing

**B**

Diagram B shows three empty coordinate axes. The first axis is labeled 'Zone' and has two tick marks. The second axis is labeled 'Easting' and has four tick marks. The third axis is labeled 'Northing' and has four tick marks.

**C**

D 

**E**

F 

**G**

H | | | | | | | | | |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian
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**organization** Private Consultant **date** 6/10/99

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 4100651-1094

city or town	Westover	state	Maryland	21871
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: ~~Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438~~

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST.**  
**DHCP/DHCD**  
**100 COMMUNITY PLACE**  
**CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023**  
**514-7600**

WI-398  
John V. Humphreys Farm  
26849 Crooked Oak Lane  
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 36, Parcel 196

1511/731 Sylvia A. Davis

to

10/5/1996 Joyce Davis Bradford  
124 acres

MSB 1501/238 Sylvia A. Davis, Personal Representative of Estate of  
Franklin E. Humphreys

to

6/28/1996 Sylvia A. Davis  
(the said Franklin E. Humphreys having departed this life  
8/19/1995)

JWTS 781/158 Edward A. Humphreys

to

10/13/1972 Franklin H. Humphreys  
2 parcels

JWTS 539/417 Alice Augusta Humphreys, Franklin E. Humphreys, Irma H.  
Wilson, Nellie Humphreys, Louella B. Humphreys, Katherine  
H. Clark, Anne H. Esham, and Raymond Esham; and Louise  
H. Abbey and William H. Abbey of Baltimore City

to

4/28/1962 Edward H. Humphreys

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Page 2

John V. Humphreys Farm  
26849 Crooked Oak Lane  
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

JWTS 500/359

Alice Augusta Humphreys, May Humphreys, Dorothy D. Humphreys, Franklin E. Humphreys, Ivy R. Humphreys, Nellie B. Humphreys, widow, City of Baltimore, William Jackson Humphreys, Atlantic City, New Jersey

to

1/11/1960

Edward H. Humphreys

JCK 12/17/1917

L. Atwood Bennett, trustee

to

12/17/1917

Lillie B. Humphreys, Sewell W. Humphreys, Robert J. Humphreys, Alpheus Humphreys, Edmund Humphreys, May Humphreys, Lucy W. Humphreys, Alice Augusta Humphreys

Whereas By a Decree of Circuit Court, 10/9/1917, Lillie B. Humphreys et al. were complainants and Luella B. Humphreys et al. were defendants

60 acres and being the same land which Alpheus Humphreys died seized....

SPT 2/26

Josephus Humphreys  
Sarah A. Humphreys

to

4/29/1875

Alpheus Humphreys  
\$500 "part of the John V. Humphreys farm" 60 acres....  
bounded by the road leading from Jesse Davis' house  
towards the Upper Ferry



WI-398

Page 3

John V. Humphreys Farm  
26849 Crooked Oak Lane  
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

United States Census  
1850

Margaret Humphriss, 47 (d. 1871)  
Robert G. Humphriss, 14  
Retta Humphriss, 9  
Thomas H. Humphriss, 7  
Fountain B. Humphriss, 3  
Virginia Humphriss, 1  
Josiah Humphriss, 33, farmer

Somerset County  
Administration Account  
SWJ 2/245

Administration Account for John V. Humphreys

Inventory filed October 16, 1849

Distribution to Margaret Humphreys, wife  
daughter, Martha A. Johnson  
son, Azariah J. Humphreys  
son, Robert G. Humphreys  
daughter, Retta E. Humphreys  
son, Thomas W. Humphreys  
son, Fountain B. Humphreys  
daughter, Virginia E. N. Humphreys

Somerset County Marriage

John V. Humphreys (d. September 1849, married  
Margaret Humphreys on August 10, 1829)

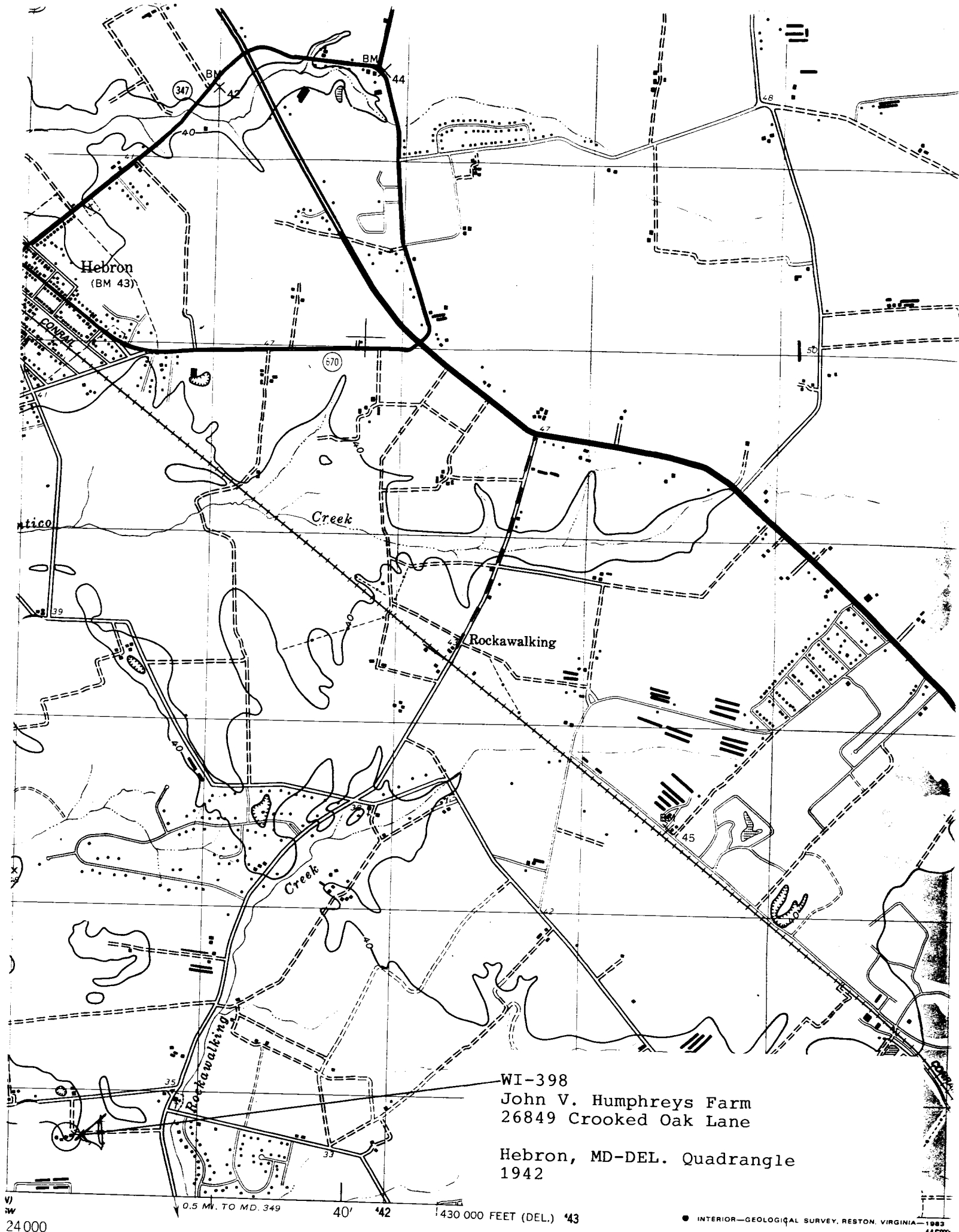
Somerset County  
Administration Account  
JP9/72

Administration of Elijah Humphreys

Joshua and John V. Humphreys, Executors

12/8/1829







NI-393

Don v. Thompson's House

Locustwood rd, Pocomoke, Md

Northwest corner

6/99 Pine Forest Association

NE 1/4 Sec 12-10-100

1 of 2



W1-330

June 6, 1964, 3:30 PM

Race Mountain, New York, State

Forest, Elmwood

6/20, 1964, 10:00 AM, 10:00 AM  
and 1:00 PM, 1:00 PM, 1:00 PM

2-1-64